AMAZING SPIDER-MAN® 2

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002

VARIANT EDITION

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The AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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CIVIL WAR II

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AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

WHEN SCIENCE-GEEK PETER PARKER WAS BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, HE GAINED THE PROPORTIONAL SPEED, STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF A SPIDER; ADHESIVE FINGERTIPS AND TOES; AND THE UNIQUE AWARENESS OF DANGER CALLED "SPIDER-SENSE." AFTER YEARS OF BARELY GETTING BY AND MOONLIGHTING AS SPIDER-MAN, PETER HAS LIVED UP TO HIS POTENTIAL AND FORMED HIS OWN COMPANY PARKER INDUSTRIES, WITH OFFICES AROUND THE WORLD.

RECENTLY, SPIDER-MAN AND THE REST OF THE SUPER HERO COMMUNITY TURNED BACK AN ALIEN INVASION THANKS TO THE PRECOGNITIVE VISION OF A NEW INHUMAN NAMED ULYSSES. BUT ULYSSES NEEDS TRAINING, AND SPIDER-MAN HAS VOLUNTEERED TO SHOW HIM THE ROPES. DURING A RECENT TOUR OF PARKER INDUSTRIES, ULYSSES HAD A VISION OF PETER PARKER'S EMPLOYEE CLAYTON COLE, A.K.A. ***CLASH***, TURNING AGAINST HIM!

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LONG ISLAND CITY. 1:38 P.M.

OKAY...

...WHO'S THE GENIUS WHO THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO BUILD A *QUINTRONIC MAN?*

HOW'D HE FIND US? I TOLD YOU IDIOTS, *NO PHONES!*

THE GAS! *USE THE GAS!*

YEAH, NICE TRY. I PUT IN MASK FILTERS. ONE TOO MANY BAD GUYS WITH *WICKED* B.O.

TSSSSSSSS

WE'LL GET YOU YET. A QUINTRONIC MAN FOUGHT THE *HULK* TO A STAND-STILL!

I KNOW. WHICH IS WHY I'M GONNA TAKE A BIG GAMBLE--

THWIP

HEY!

--THAT SOMEONE WHO COULD BUILD AND PILOT THIS THING IS SMART ENOUGH TO WANT TO *SAVE HIS OWN LIFE.*

YOU DON'T SCARE ME! YOU'VE NEVER KILLED--

NOT ME, EINSTEIN. CHECK YOUR THERMOCOUPLE READINGS.

AW, FER THE LOVEA'

THE CORE'S OVERHEATING! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT!

YOU WON'T GET FAR ENOUGH. GUIDE THIS THING INTO THE RIVER, FAST!

OKAY, CHILDREN AND MAD SCIENTISTS FIRST.

AAAH! DON'T DROP ME!

TH-THAT COOLED IT. IF THE CORE HAD EXPLODED--

IT WOULD'VE TAKEN OUT YOU AND HALF THIS BLOCK.

HOW'D YOU KNOW?

TRADE SECRET. BY THE WAY, YOU'RE ALL GOING TO JAIL. JUST IN CASE THERE WAS ANY DOUBT.

BLOOOP

THAT WAS A BIG WIN, *ULYSSES.* YOU SAVED LIVES...AND NOT JUST THOSE FIVE LUNATICS!

YEAH, BUT THE WAY YOU USED THE DETAILS FROM MY VISION TO FIGURE OUT WHERE THEY'D BE AND WHAT THE MALFUNCTION WAS...YOU MUST BE AS SMART AS *PETER PARKER!*

EH. HANG AROUND THAT GUY LONG ENOUGH, THE NERDY STUFF KINDA RUBS OFF.

SPEAKING OF MY VISIONS... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THAT MAN I "SAW" FIGHTING YOU...*CLAYTON COLE?* HE SEEMED LIKE A DECENT GUY...

HE IS. I...I'M STILL FIGURING IT OUT.

MAYBE IF YOU JUST TELL HIM, SO HE CAN BE CAREFUL NOT TO, Y'KNOW, BREAK BAD...

OR MAYBE HEARING I THINK HE MIGHT IS WHAT SETS HIM OFF. I MEAN, HE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG YET...

...THAT I KNOW ABOUT. AW, MAN, I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO SPY ON THE POOR GUY...YOU DIDN'T PICK UP ANY OF THE CONTEXT? *WHY* HE WAS FIGHTING ME?

SORRY. THERE WAS A LOT OF NOISE, I COULDN'T HEAR ANYTHING.

"FIGURES. AS *CLASH,* HE USED SONIC BLASTS. JUST A THRILL-SEEKING KID, BUT IT MESSED UP HIS LIFE... AND THAT COULD'VE BEEN ME, IF NOT FOR...SOME SPECIAL PEOPLE.

"AFTER THAT, WITH A RECORD, CLAYTON COULDN'T GET A JOB. HE SPENT YEARS AS A HENCHMAN TO OTHER BLACK MASKS."

BUT EVERY INSTINCT I HAVE SAYS HE'S BEEN SINCERE ABOUT REFORMING.

I GUESS YOU DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON WITH SOMEONE UNLESS YOU WALK A MILE IN THEIR SHOES...

EARLIER THAT DAY. 8:03 A.M.

AW, MAN...

SPLASH

...MY BRAND-NEW KICKS. BAD WAY TO START THE DAY...

CLAYTON!

CLAYTON COLE!

SULLY? HEY, HOW YOU BEEN, MAN? HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE...

SINCE WE HENCHED FOR *THE OWL*. MAN, WHAT A FRUIT LOOP, HUH? AND THAT B.O.... HEY, WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD?

JUST VISITING MY FOLKS BEFORE WORK.

LEMME BUY YA BREAKFAST. I'M ROLLING IN IT. PULLED OFF A SWEET SCORE WITH--

SULLY, NO OFFENSE, BUT I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT. IT'S A VIOLATION OF MY PAROLE JUST TALKING TO YOU, SO I HAVE TO PASS. YOU UNDERSTAND, RIGHT?

IT'S COOL. I'M HAPPY FOR YA, MAN. SWEET LEGIT CORPORATE JOB... BET YOU'RE LIVING THE LUSH LIFE YOURSELF!

UH, HEY... WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?

8:16 A.M.

ALL I'M SAYING IS, YOU USED TO ***BEAT*** PETER PARKER IN THE REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR. AND NOW HE'S TREATING YOU LIKE SOME OFFICE DRONE? HE NEEDS TO PAY YOU BETTER!

HE'S PAYING ME WELL, DAD. MOST OF IT JUST GOES INTO A TRUST UNTIL I'M OFF PAROLE. I STILL GET ENOUGH TO AFFORD RENT IN MANHATTAN.

WHILE HE JET-SETS AROUND THE WORLD WITH CHAMPAGNE AND SUPER-MODELS?

HE DOESN'T DRINK. AND I THINK HE HAS A GIRLFRIEND.

IT'S JUST A WASTE, IS ALL. YOU'RE SO SMART. YOU SHOULD GO INTO BUSINESS FOR YOURSELF.

I'M ALWAYS WORKING ON MY OWN STUFF. BUT SUPPLIES ARE EXPENSIVE, AND IT'S HARD TO GET SEED MONEY WHEN YOU'VE GOT A CRIMINAL RECORD.

HEY, YOU GUYS'LL GET A NICE PAYDAY WHEN YOU SELL THIS PLACE. MAYBE YOU COULD BACK ME?

AHERM...WELL, THE TRUTH IS, IT'S BEEN TOUGH FOR US THE PAST FEW YEARS, TOO. WE WON'T HAVE A LOT OF DISCRETIONARY INCOME.

AND WE'RE AT THE AGE WHERE WE HAVE TO THINK ABOUT RETIREMENT... WE DON'T WANT TO END UP A BURDEN TO YOU, SON. YOU SHOULD ASK PARKER.

I CAN'T. HE ALREADY DID ME THE BIGGEST FAVOR ANYONE EVER HAS...BELIEVING IN ME WHEN NO ONE ELSE WOULD.

REALLY. BECAUSE IT SOUNDS TO ME LIKE HE'S ***USING*** YOU.

AND TREATING YOU LIKE A CHILD.

YEAH, WELL, YOU GUYS WOULD BE THE EXPERTS.

WHAT'S THAT, HONEY?

NOTHING.

I WAS JUST SAYING THE REASON I CAME BY WAS TO GET GRANDMA'S ENGAGEMENT RING.

CLAYTON! DOES THIS MEAN--?

DON'T GET TOO EXCITED. I'M NOT POPPING THE QUESTION YET. BUT DONNA AND I ARE GETTING SERIOUS, AND I WANT TO BE READY.

WHICH ONE IS DONNA? NOT THAT TATTOOED YOGA PERSON?

THAT WAS FOUR YEARS AGO. DONNA'S AN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AT P.I. I TOLD YOU ABOUT HER. I SENT PICTURES.

OH, HONEY. NOT THE SINGLE MOTHER. YOU ***KNOW*** SHE'S ONLY AFTER YOUR MONEY.

YOU JUST SAID I DON'T MAKE ***ENOUGH*** MONEY.

FUTURE EARNINGS. WE ALL BELIEVE YOU ***WILL***...ONE DAY.

ZENVANA

RIGHT, WELL, I'M NOT HERE FOR YOUR APPROVAL. GRANDMA LEFT THE RING TO ME.

THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT. YOU'RE NOT IN "GEN POP" NOW. YOU WANT TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY, ACT LIKE A CIVILIZED PERSON.

DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME, EVAN. HE'S JUST ACTING LIKE THIS TO UPSET US, AND YOU'RE GIVING HIM EXACTLY WHAT HE WANTS.

RIGHT. IT'S STILL ALL ABOUT ***YOU***. I GOTTA GO TO WORK.

AND YOU COULD SHAVE THAT BEARD. WHY WOULD A VENTURE CAPITALIST INVEST IN SOMEONE WHO LOOKS LIKE A HOMELESS PERSON?

GOODBYE, DAD.

10:17 A.M.

TYLER HAD SUCH A WONDERFUL TIME AT THE STREET FAIR.

HE WON'T STOP ASKING ABOUT YOU. HE...WANTS TO KNOW IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE HIS NEW DADDY.

SPOONS

WOW. HA. HE'S A GREAT KID. AND I KNOW IT'S KIND OF SOON FOR THAT, BUT--

EXACTLY. I'M SO GLAD YOU UNDERSTAND. I JUST, I HAD NO IDEA HE WAS SO DESPERATE FOR A FATHER FIGURE. HE IDOLIZES YOU.

WELL, THAT'S... I MEAN, I'M NOT PERFECT, BUT--

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CLAYTON. BUT I'M AFRAID IF HE FINDS OUT ABOUT...YOU KNOW, YOUR *PAST*...

HE'LL BE A TEENAGER SOON. AND NOTHING'S SECRET ON THE INTERNET. I'M AFRAID HE MIGHT START...WELL, WANTING TO *ACT OUT* THE WAY YOU DID...

I'M FOND OF YOU, CLAY. WE'VE HAD FUN TOGETHER. BUT I HAVE TO THINK OF TYLER.

I'M SO SORRY. I JUST THINK IT'S BEST IF WE END IT NOW, BEFORE THINGS GET SERIOUS. BEFORE ANYONE GETS TOO *ATTACHED.*

I...I UNDERSTAND.

YOU'RE THE BEST. THANK YOU, CLAY. I--I'M SORRY, I HAVE TO GO.

THIS IS HARDER THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE.

11:04 A.M.

FOREVER, ROHAN. I MADE ONE DUMB MISTAKE WHEN I WAS A STUPID KID AND IT'S GONNA FOLLOW ME *FOREVER!*

I KNOW THE FEELING. SOMETIME I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT MY STUDENT LOANS.

LOOK, MAN, WHAT HAPPENED WITH DONNA SUCKS. BUT LIKE T-SWIFT SAYS, YOU GOTTA SHAKE IT OFF. IT'S JUST A BUMP IN THE ROAD.

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT? YOU'RE JUST OUT OF SCHOOL AND YOU'RE MAKING FIVE FIGURES! YOU'RE SET FOR LIFE! MY LIFE IS *OVER!*

I'M SORRY. YOU DIDN'T DESERVE THAT. I'M JUST SO--SO--

HEY, IT'S COOL. BREAKUPS ARE ROUGH. BUT PUT ON YOUR GAME FACE...

...THE BOSS IS COMING.

MORNING, CLAYTON. ROHAN. YOUR TEAM WAS JUST UPDATING ME ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS OF THE FLYING CAR. SOUNDS LIKE EVERYTHING'S COMING ALONG NICELY.

OH, YEAH. THE NEW CRASH-DETECTION SYSTEM IS PERFORMING UP TO SPECS. AND THAT NEXT-GEN BUGGING DEVICE WE'RE MAKING FOR THE NYPD IS--

WHOA! CHECK IT OUT! *SPIDER-SIGHTING!*

EXCUSE ME, GENTS. NEED TO GO OVER A FEW SECURITY THINGS FIRST.

THIS IS WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT. YOUR LIFE CAN'T BE OVER AS LONG AS YOU'VE GOT ***SPIDER-MAN*** GOING TO BAT FOR YOU, CAN IT?

YEAH. AND MR. PARKER. THEY BELIEVE IN ME, SO I HAVE TO BELIEVE IN MYSELF, RIGHT?

THAT'S SOME ZEN WISDOM RIGHT THERE, BUDDY. HEY, DO YOU KNOW WHO THAT KID WITH SPIDEY IS?

MUST BE SOMEONE IMPORANT. LET'S GO SAY HI.

HEY, DID I HEAR YOU MIGHT BE INTERNING HERE? WANNA SEE WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON?

YOU KNOW IT! IS THIS WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE?

IT IS INDEED. THE LONG-PROMISED ***FLYING CAR.***

IT'S NOT UNLIKE SONAR... THE SONICS DETECT WHAT'S AROUND THE CAR, THE TRAJECTORY, AND...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

UH, YEAH, SORRY. I JUST REMEMBERED... I'VE GOT A THING.

OH, RIGHT. THE TELE-CONFERENCE WITH PARKER. WE BETTER GO.

NICE MEETING YOU.

YEAH, THANKS.

A PROSPECTIVE INTERN RATES A PERSONAL TOUR FROM SPIDER-MAN? IS HE THOR'S NEPHEW OR SOMETHING?

I...I DON'T KNOW.

11:47 A.M.

THEY'RE DOING IT AGAIN. LOOKING AT ME FUNNY.

WHAT'S GOING ON? SPIDER-MAN WOULDN'T SPEND THAT MUCH TIME WITH A NEW INTERN. WHO IS THAT KID?

12:38 P.M.

HEY, CLAYTON. HOW'S EVERYTHING GOING?

MR. PARKER! I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN SHANGHAI.

JUST FLEW IN. AND PLEASE, IT'S PETER.

EVERYTHING'S GOOD. GREAT. UH, THE NYPD PROJECT--

I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT THAT. I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU KNOW...

YOU CAN TALK TO ME, IF YOU'RE HAVING ANY KIND OF...PROBLEMS. CONCERNS. NOT JUST WORK-RELATED.

I... APPRECIATE THAT, MISTER... PETER. BUT REALLY, EVERYTHING'S FINE.

THANKS. THAT...MEANS A LOT.

OKAY, AWESOME. JUST KEEP THAT IN MIND. DOOR'S ALWAYS OPEN...LITERALLY OR DIGITALLY!

HE HAD A TELECONFERENCE WITH THE KID WHEN HE WAS ON A PLANE LESS THAN TWO HOURS AWAY?

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

PETER PARKER'S OFFICE. 2:12 P.M.

PETER PARKER

I FEEL LIKE THE WORLD'S BIGGEST INGRATE DOING THIS, BUT I'VE GOTTA KNOW WHAT THAT KID SAID TO SPIDER-MAN.

MAYBE HE JUST RECOGNIZED ME FROM THE INTERNET AND GOT SCARED. BUT THAT WOULDN'T MAKE SPIDEY LOOK AT ME FUNNY. HE *KNOWS* ABOUT MY PAST...

ANYWAY, I DO NEED TO FIELD TEST THE *RETROACTIVE RECORDER* BEFORE WE PRESENT IT TO THE NYPD.

THEY WON'T HAVE TO PLANT BUGS OR PUT WIRES ON INFORMANTS ANYMORE. JUST GET A WARRANT, BUST INTO A MOB HANGOUT AFTER A MEETING...

...AND PICK UP THE SOUND WAVES STILL BOUNCING AROUND THE ROOM. HEAR EVERYTHING THAT WAS SAID...

DID YOU HAVE A--

A VISION. I...YEAH. YEAH.

THAT GUY I MET...HE'S GONNA GO BAD. HE'S GONNA PUT ON A COSTUME AND FIGHT YOU.

CLAYTON SOMETHING.

CLAYTON?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE?

PETER

PETER PARKER

THAT'S THE RETROACTIVE RECORDER! FOR THE POLICE TO USE... WITH ***WARRANTS*** AND STUFF! AND YOU'RE, WHAT, ***EAVES-DROPPING*** ON--

I KNOW WHAT IT IS! I ***MADE*** IT! ALONG WITH A DOZEN OTHER THINGS THAT HAVE BROUGHT IN A ***FORTUNE*** FOR THIS COMPANY!

BUT AFTER ALL THAT, YOU'RE GONNA TAKE THE WORD OF SOME PUNK WHO CAN'T EVEN GROW FACIAL HAIR-- WHO DOESN'T EVEN ***KNOW*** ME!--THAT I'M GONNA GO BAD?

CLAYTON, IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE. HE--KEEP THIS QUIET, BUT HE'S GOT ***POWERS.*** HE--

I DON'T CARE IF HE'S ***CAPTAIN AMERICA!*** I HELPED YOU AGAINST THE ***ZODIAC!*** THE WHOLE TIME I'VE BEEN HERE, I'VE FOLLOWED YOUR RULES--

ACTUALLY, YOU HAVEN'T. YOU USED ***CLASH*** TECH MORE THAN ONCE, WHICH VIOLATES YOUR PAROLE. AND NOW YOU ***BROKE INTO*** PARKER'S OFFICE--

Y'KNOW WHAT? ***I QUIT.*** PROBLEM SOLVED.

NOW ALL YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT TO DO IS ***STAY OUT OF MY LIFE.***

CLAYTON! ***CLAYTON!***

OH, MAN. I DID ***NOT*** JUST SELF-FULFILLING-PROPHECY MYSELF.

I GOTTA FIX THIS...

MOYNIHAN'S SOCIAL CLUB.
HAPPY HOUR.

...WILL SEE ROXXON ENERGY BREAK ITS OWN RECORD FOR LARGEST EPA FINE IN HISTORY...AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO TWO PERCENT OF THEIR ANNUAL PROFITS. ROXXON ADMITS NO WRONGDOING.

BUNCH OF VULTURE CAPITALISTS TRASH THE PLANET AND NO ONE DOES SQUAT. I MAKE ONE DUMB MISTAKE AS A KID AND IT RUINS MY WHOLE DAMN LIFE. TYPICAL.

SAW THAT. GOT THIS SWEET NEW ***WEBWARE*** WATCH WITH MY LATEST TAKE. SET AN ALERT FOR MENTIONS OF ROXXON...SOMETIMES THEY HIRE "CONTRACTORS."

I WORKED ON THOSE. WE PREFER JUST "***WEBWARE.***"

YOU WORKED ON ***THAT?*** HEY, DRINKS'RE ON TONY STARK OVER HERE!

WELL, I DIDN'T DESIGN THE OPERATING SYSTEM, JUST THE VOICE RECOGNITION. I GOT A BONUS, BUT I CAN'T ACCESS IT UNTIL... Y'KNOW, I'M OFF PROBATION.

DUDE. THAT AIN'T RIGHT. THIS PARKER GUY'S TREATING YOU LIKE SOME KINDA INDENTURED SERVANT.

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, IT'S... Y'KNOW WHAT? I ***WILL*** GET THE NEXT ROUND.

I COULDN'T HELP OVERHEARING. I'VE BEEN IN YOUR SHOES, SON.

MY EX-PARTNER STOLE MY WORK AND GOT RICH FROM IT. NOW I'M OLD, IN POOR HEALTH, AND I HAVE NOTHING. DON'T LET THAT HAPPEN TO YOU.

NO OFFENSE, BUT I DIDN'T ASK FOR YOUR INPUT, MISTER--

STROMM.

MENDEL STROMM.

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE. NORMAN OSBORN'S OLD PARTNER. THE *ROBOT MASTER.*

THIS IS A HENCHMAN BAR. YOU GUYS HAVE YOUR OWN PLACES. YOU SHOULD BE AT THE *BLACK CAT'S* CLUB.

BUT *YOU'RE* HERE. AND I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TALK TO YOU FOR SOME TIME ABOUT OUR...MUTUAL INTERESTS.

WE DON'T HAVE-- *ANGH!*

DON'T WE, MR. COLE? OH YES, I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU. FEW DATABASES CAN KEEP ME OUT.

PARKER INDUSTRIES' SECURITY IS AMONG THE FEW I CAN'T DEFEAT. NOT WITHOUT YOUR HELP. YOU HELP ME GAIN ACCESS ONCE. THAT'S ALL.

I EXAMINE THEIR UPCOMING PROJECTS, MAKE A FEW CHANGES, BEAT THEM TO THE MARKET, AND YOU AND I SHARE THE PROFITS. NO SILLY OUTFITS OR POINTLESS HISTRIONICS.

AND WHEN, INEVITABLY, PARKER DISCOVERS THE INTRUSION, ALL SIGNS POINT TO HAROLD LYMAN...A.K.A. *HARRY OSBORN.* MY OLD PARTNER'S SON.

HE'S RUINED. THE NAME TARNISHED. HE'LL BE FINE; HE'S RICH, AND THEY NEVER REALLY SUFFER, DO THEY?

BUT YOU, MY FRIEND, FIND YOURSELF IN PRIME POSITION TO MOVE INTO HIS JOB. ONE WITH A *FUTURE.* THE SUCCESS YOU DESERVE.

NOW, DO YOU STILL FEEL WE HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON?

MORE THAN EVER.

I KNOW ABOUT YOU, TOO. YOU'RE SMART. AN ENGINEERING GENIUS. BUT YOU CLUNG TO AN OLD GRUDGE AND LET IT RUIN YOUR LIFE. I'M NOT LIKE THAT.

AREN'T YOU?

THEN WHY DO YOU HAVE DEBTS TO THE *TINKERER*...A MAN WHO SUPPLIES EQUIPMENT TO CRIMINALS? FAR MORE THAN YOUR "ALLOWANCE" CAN POSSIBLY COVER.

H-HOW DO YOU--?

THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT YOUR SITUATION, MR. COLE. HOW MUCH YOU STAND TO GAIN...

...AND WHAT YOU HAVE TO *LOSE.*

YOU'LL FIND MY NUMBER IN YOUR PHONE'S CONTACTS LIST. I'LL GIVE YOU A DAY TO THINK ABOUT IT. YOU'RE AN INTELLIGENT MAN.

I KNOW YOU'LL DO THE SMART THING.

7:12 P.M.

CLAYTON'S NOT ANSWERING HIS PHONE, AND HE LEFT HIS WEBWARE IN HIS OFFICE. SO I CALLED HIS PARENTS.

I'VE MET THEM. THEY'RE PIECES OF WORK.

I KNOW. BUT THEY TOLD ME CLAYTON'S BEEN WORKING ON HIS OWN PROJECTS... STUFF THAT'LL LET HIM GO INTO BUSINESS FOR HIMSELF SOMEDAY.

AND HE CAN'T GET SEED MONEY BECAUSE OF HIS RECORD.

I JUST WISH HE WOULD'VE COME TO ME. I'D HAVE BACKED HIM.

WELL, TO PLAY DEVIL'S ADVOCATE, WHY WOULD HE THINK THAT? I MEAN, YOU'VE GOT HIM ON A PRETTY SHORT LEASH. THE TRUST FUND AND ALL THAT.

I HAD TO DO THAT. IT WAS A CONDITION OF HIS PAROLE. AND I HAD TO PROTECT MY INVESTORS...WHICH AT THE TIME INCLUDED AUNT MAY, AND--AND--

I AM A GIGANTIC JERK, AREN'T I?

HEY, AS SOMEONE WHO'S FALLEN OFF THE WAGON AND ONTO A *GOBLIN GLIDER* MORE THAN ONCE, I'M NOT GONNA CRITICIZE REASONABLE SAFEGUARDS.

BUT I ALSO HAVE SOME INSIGHT INTO WHAT CLAYTON MIGHT BE FEELING. AND I PROMISE YOU, NO ONE HAS LESS FAITH IN HIM THAN *HIM*.

HE WAS PROBABLY CLINGING TO YOUR TRUST AS PROOF HE WAS WORTH THE SECOND CHANCE. NOW THAT HE FEELS LIKE YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN HIM...

I'LL GIVE HIM A RAISE. AS MUCH AS THE PROBATION OFFICER WILL ALLOW. AND IF HE STILL NEEDS BACKING, I'LL PROVIDE IT MYSELF, NO STRINGS.

CLAYTON WAS RIGHT. HE EARNED IT. HIS WHOLE TIME HERE, ALL HE'S DONE WRONG IS USE HIS OLD CLASH TECH A COUPLE TIMES... BOTH TO HELP SPIDER-MAN.

THAT'S THE ONE PART THAT WORRIES ME. TAKE IT FROM SOMEONE WHO KNOWS. THE OUTFIT, THE POWER, THE ATTENTION...

...THEY'RE MORE ADDICTIVE THAN ANYTHING ELSE.

THAT'S WHY I DON'T WANT IT TO COME TO THAT. I WANT TO SHOW CLAYTON CONCRETE PROOF OF MY FAITH IN HIM.

HOW'RE YOU GONNA FIND CLAYTON TO TELL HIM?

I'VE LEFT WORD ON HIS CELL, AT HIS APARTMENT, WITH HIS FOLKS. ONCE HE COOLS OFF, HE'LL CALL ME BACK.

COME ON, CLAYTON... CALL BACK.

7:37 P.M.

DAD WAS RIGHT. SHAVE THE BEARD. BEARDS SAY, "HOBO. CRAZY PERSON. HIPPIE. PAROLED CRIMINAL."

IF I WANT MR. PARKER TO TAKE ME BACK I GOTTA CULTIVATE A MORE CLEAN-CUT, PROFESSIONAL LOOK.

THERE. SAY HELLO TO THE NEW, BABY-FACED, TRUSTWORTHY CLAYTON...

OH.

WHEN DID I GET SO... *OLD...?*

SCIEN

SCIENCE FAIR

1st

TINKERER, CLAYTON COLE. COME ON, IT'S YOU AND ME, OF COURSE THE CALL'S SCRAMBLED.

LISTEN, I WANT TO PUT A RUSH ON THAT ORDER. I'LL PAY EXTRA...YEAH, YEAH, THE CAYMAN ISLAND ACCOUNT. JUST MAKE IT YOUR *TOP PRIORITY,* OKAY?

THE NEXT MORNING. 7:15 A.M.

OKAY. NOW WE'RE COOKING WITH GAS.

EXPRESS

READY OR NOT, WORLD...

...CLASH IS BACK!

STROMM? CLAYTON COLE.

LET'S SET UP A MEET.

TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT:

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 3

CIVIL WAR II

ZONE